

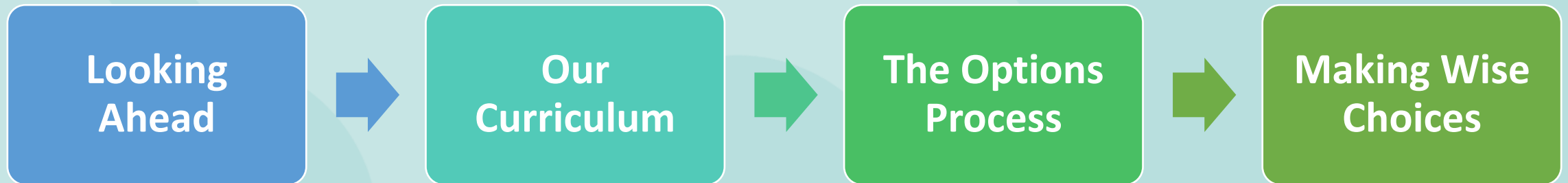
Welcome to the Year 9 Options Evening



Introductions and Format

Mrs J Butler – Head of Year 9

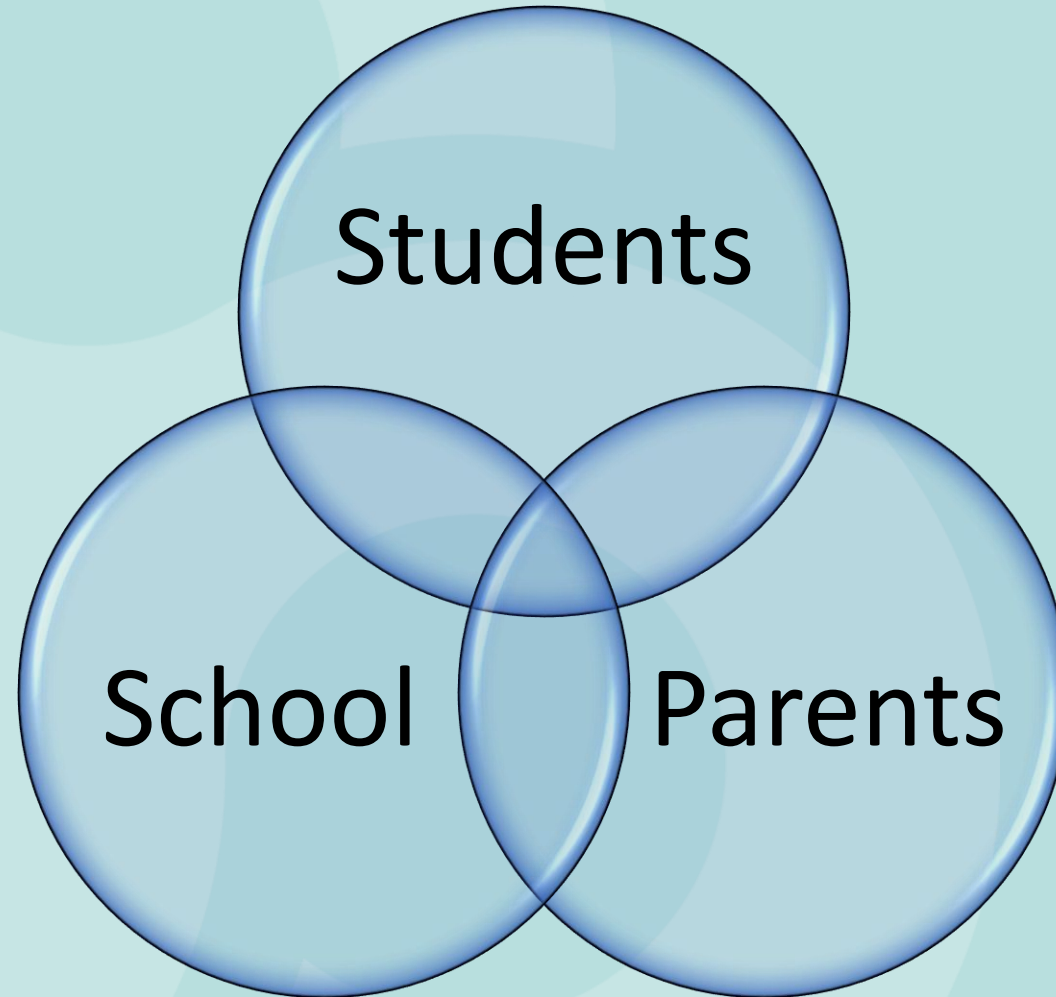
Mr J Young – Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Assessment)



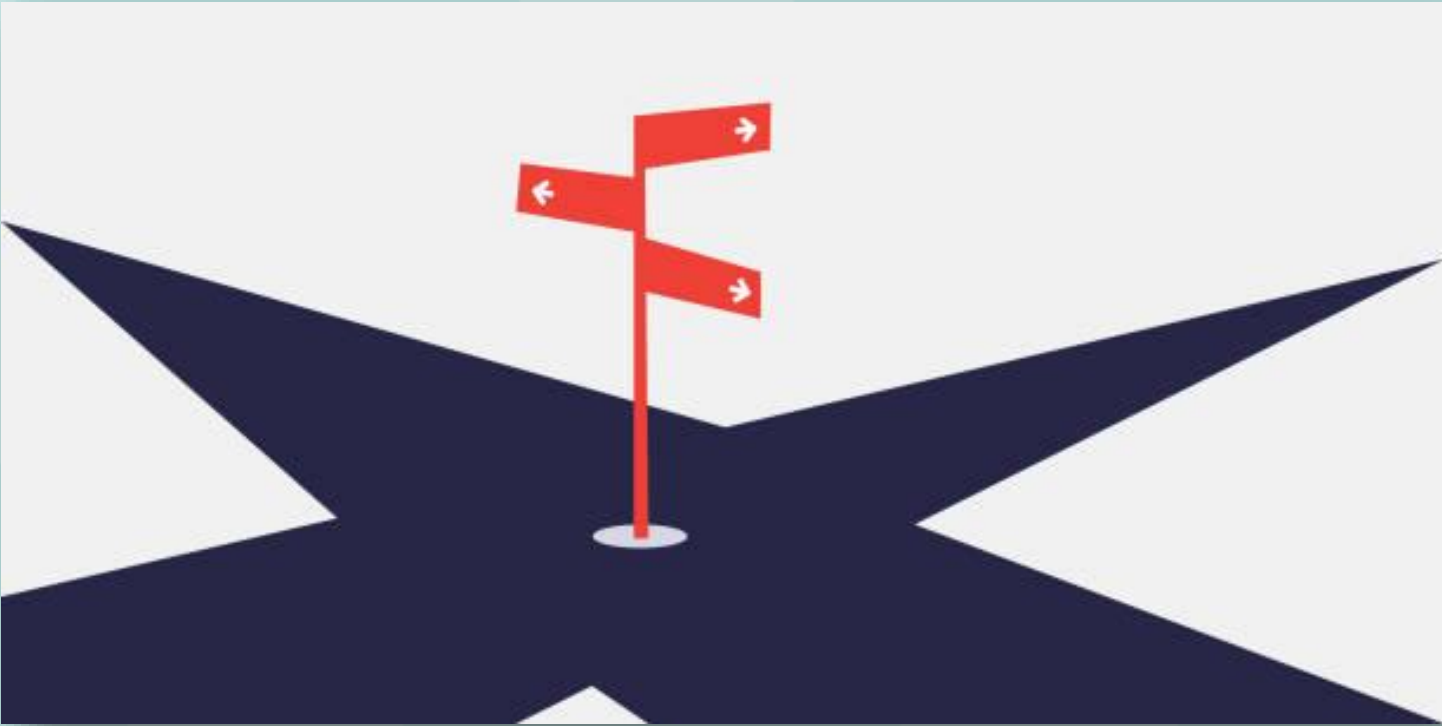
**Looking ahead to
next year...**



We all have a role to play



It's time for the next step



I am going to...



...be ambitious for my future.



What is needed for success in Key Stage 4

- A commitment to learning and your chosen subjects
- Being organised and keeping good subject notes
- Good study and revision habits from the beginning
- A willingness to be open minded, try new things and persevere when things get tough
- A long-term perspective with clear goals – something we will support you with over the next two years
- Excellent attendance (98%+)



Our 2025-27 Curriculum



Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11)

Our ambition is to ensure that students have access to the broad and balanced curriculum that enables successful progression into their future destinations and careers.

The overall 'curriculum' goes far beyond the subjects a student takes, including the tutor programme, PSHE, extra curricular activities, trips and work experience.

Subjects are a key part of the curriculum, therefore we aim to ensure:

- We have choices that meet our students needs
- There is a breadth of choice
- They ensure suitable access to post-16 options



Level 2 Qualifications

GCSE – traditional linear qualification where all or the majority of the course has external assessments such as exams or performances e.g. maths, history, business.

These courses are graded 9-1 where 9 is the highest grade. A grade 4 is a basic pass, a grade 5 is a strong pass.

Vocational (NCFE/BTEC/OCR Cambridge National) – qualifications that combine exams with other forms of assessment such as coursework.

These courses are graded Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction onto Level 2 P/M/D/D. A level 2 pass is the equivalent to a grade 4 at GCSE.*



Core Subjects

Every student will study the following courses + 4 option subjects:

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Combined Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics worth 2 GCSEs)

Either History or Geography

Twice weekly PE lessons

Every student must achieve a grade 4 or above in Maths and English at the end of Year 11 otherwise they must continue to study it when attending a College/Sixth Form/Apprenticeship.



Option Subjects

GCSE Art or 3D Design

GCSE Business

GCSE Citizenship

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Drama

GCSE Film Studies

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Photography

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Religious Studies*

GCSE Spanish

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Cambridge National in Sport Studies

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice



*New courses
for 2025/26



An Example of Option Blocking

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Art	Creative Design	Business	Citizenship
Business	Art	Computer Science	Creative Design
Geography	Film Studies	Drama	Geography
History	Geography	Food and Cookery	iMedia
Photography	History	History	Religious Studies
Spanish	Music Practice	Spanish	Spanish
Triple Science	Photography	Sport (Cam Nat)	Physical Education



Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be offered all of the subjects I choose?

Possibly not. We will do all that we can to make things happen but some groups may be over or under-subscribed. We will support you through the process if you need to rethink your options.

Will I be able to change my mind?

We will always try to be flexible. If a course is unsuitable, change may be possible if spaces exist in other groups. However, changing courses becomes increasingly difficult within half a term of starting Year 10. It is important to think carefully about the choices you make and use the guidance provided.

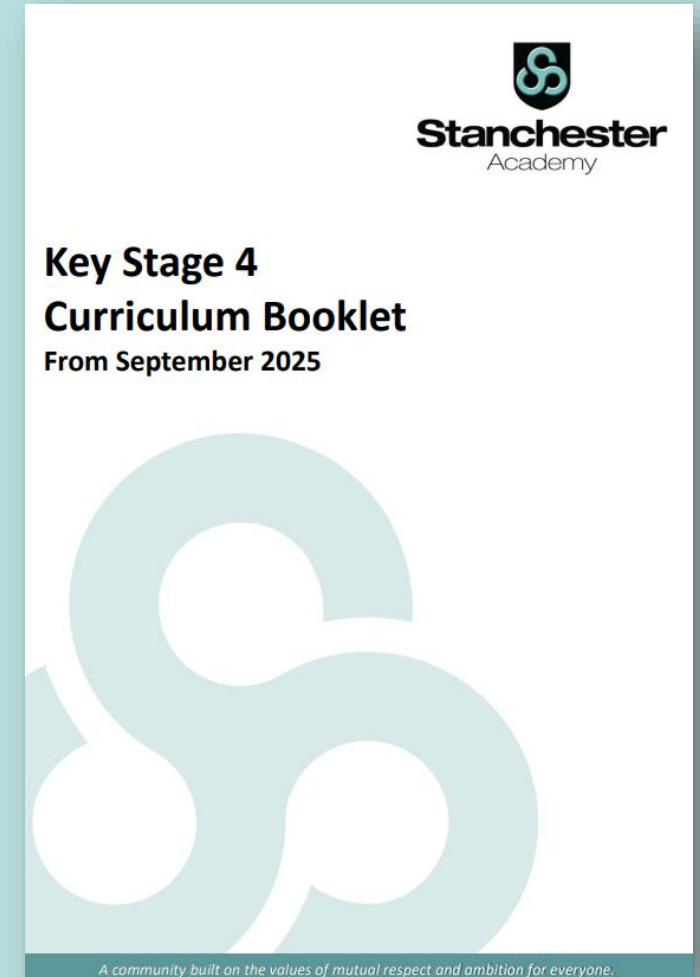


The Options Process



The Options Process

1. Finding out about the courses available
 - Tonight's options evening
 - Curriculum Booklet
 - Website resources
 - Speak to your teachers
2. Options can be selected from **Monday 3rd February**
3. Parents' Evening **Thursday 13th February**
4. Options deadline **Friday 28th February**



Information to Support Decisions



Key Stage 4 Curriculum Booklet From September 2025



A community built on the values of mutual respect and ambition for everyone.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: OCR
QAN: 601/8310/X

Why do we study this subject?

Geography is all around you. It is dynamic, exciting, relevant and a useful subject. It helps you understand the environment in which you live, it allows you to consider world issues and acquire knowledge about people in different places.

Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is a good preparation for the world of work. Employers want people with the following attributes: good communication skills; ability to work in a team; ability to manage themselves; numeracy and literacy and the ability to problem solve.

What content will I be learning?

Component 1 Living in the UK: A look at the varying Geography of the UK considering the physical and human environments alongside the processes that create them and the challenges they create. There are three topics included in this component - landscapes of the UK; people of the UK and UK environmental challenges.

Component 2 The world around us: A look at the interconnections and complexity of the planet. We study the physical and human environments, thinking about how decision-makers have a role to play before considering the sustainable nature and management required for the different environments. There are three topics included in this component - ecosystems of the planet; people of the planet and environmental threats to the planet.

Component 3 Geographical skills: Geographical skills are an integral part of the whole course, and this allows students to "think like a geographer" and apply the skills across a variety of different scenarios. This, alongside the synoptic nature of Geography allows students to consider the connections between the different elements studied. Students also learn fieldwork skills, by applying specific knowledge, skills and understanding to a real-world situation.

How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Living in the UK today - 1 hour, 60 marks, 30% of the GCSE grade

Paper 2: The world around us - 1 hour, 60 marks, 30% of the GCSE grade

Paper 3: Geographical skills - 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks, 40% of the GCSE grade



As part of the GCSE students will participate in a series of trips to support the fieldwork component of the course.

1-day coastal fieldwork - Lyme Regis

1-day urban fieldwork - Bristol

UK based residential - Aberystwyth

International residential - location to be confirmed but likely to be Iceland or Naples.

Where can the subject take me?

Anyone wishing to study Geography further at A-level or university should consider the GCSE. It can lead to careers in professions such as cartography, climate change analysis, climatologist, or emergency management specialist.

COURSE SPECIFICATIONS

GCSE Art, Craft and Design/Photography:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Business:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/business/specifications/AQA-8132-SP-2017.PDF>

GCSE Combined Science:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Computer Science:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

GCSE Drama:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE English Language:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8700-SP-2015.PDF>

GCSE English Literature:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8702-SP-2015.PDF>

GCSE Film Studies:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/sjyhrqeu/eduqas-gcse-film-studies-spec-from-2017-e-27-09-22.pdf>

GCSE Geography:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-8035-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE History:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf>

GCSE Mathematics:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf>

GCSE Physical Education:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/pe/specifications/AQA-8582-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Religious Studies:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE Spanish:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-8698-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF>

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610942-specification-cambridge-nationals-creative-imedia-j834.pdf>

Cambridge National in Sport Studies:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610953-specification-cambridge-nationals-sport-studies-j829.pdf>

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370555-BTEC-Tech-Award-Music-Practice-2022-spec-PPD1-190721.pdf>

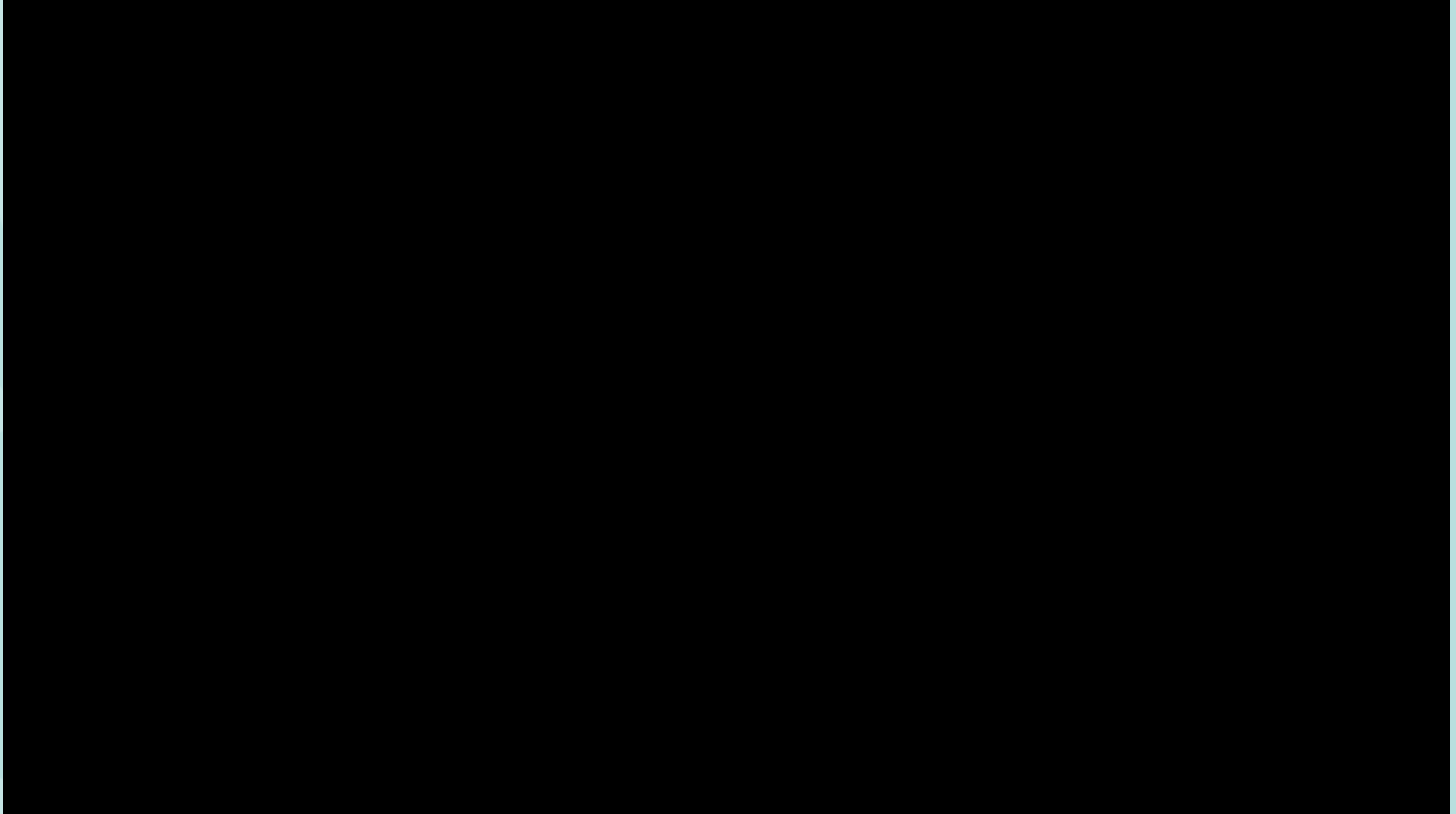
NCFE V-Certs Creative Design and Production:

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/creative-design-production/>

NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/food-cookery/>

Information to Support Decisions – Videos



Making your selections

- Choices will be selected online via a link shared with parents/students
- You will receive a username and password to login and make your choices
- You select your 4 options (one of which must be history or geography) and a 1st reserve (R) and 2nd reserve (S) choice.

Options can be selected from **Monday 3rd February**

Year 9 Parent's Evening is **Thursday 13th February**

The options deadline is **Friday 28th February**



Making Wise Choices



Poor reasons for choosing a subject

1. What your friends are doing
2. A liking for a particular teacher or their way of working – you may be taught by someone else next year
3. Looking for an easy two years and choosing courses which seem to put fewer demands on you
4. Choices based upon hearsay or out-of-date careers information.



What are important considerations?

1. Think about what **you** want to do
2. Identify possible links between subjects of study and access to future careers or College/Sixth Form/Further Education
3. Remember, generally you will do best at subjects which you enjoy and perform well at now
4. Be prepared to face the challenges of GCSE – you might surprise yourself
5. Understand the nature of the new subjects on offer and what they involve, particularly how you are assessed for example exams vs coursework.



Thank You

Please stay around for any questions

